1 <u>ABSTRACT</u>

| 2 | The present invention provides an integrated VPN/firewall system that uses bath                |
|---|--|
| 3 | hardware (firmware) and software to optimize the efficiency of both VPN and firewall           |
| 4 | functions. The hardware portions of the VPN and firewall are designed in flexible and scalable |
| 5 | layers to permit high-speed processing without sacrificing system security. The software       |
| 6 | portions are adapted to provide interfacing with hardware components, report and rules         |
| 7 | management control   |